



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
ISLAMABAD**

**Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani's speech on the Founder's Day 2010 of The
Lawrence College, Ghora Gali, Murree**

Islamabad, 09th October, 2010.

**Mr. Salman Taseer, Chairman Board of Governors Lawrence College Ghora Gali,
Mr. Aseff Ahmed Ali, Federal Minister of Education,
Major General Sohail Ahmed Khan, Chairman Executive Committee of the Board
of Governors,
Air Commodore Farooq Hussain Kiyani (Retd), Principal Lawrence College, Ghora
Gali, Lawrencians from the Lawrence School India, Old Gallians,
Faculty members, distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Asslam-o-Alaikum!

It's indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to be here with you on the Founder's Day function of the Lawrence College Ghora Gali, Murree, which is unique in the sense that it marks the culmination of 150-year celebrations of this renowned institution of the sub-continent. The massive turn up of the alumni of Lawrence College from all over the world, besides a large gathering of the old Gallians from Pakistan as well as from India for the first time on such a great occasion, adds to the uniqueness of the Founder's Day Function. Imbued with the motto of their alma mater, "Never Give In", the old Gallians are rendering outstanding services in multiple fields of life, such as the armed forces of Pakistan, civil services, engineering, medicine and a host of other professions. I feel pleased to mention that one of my predecessors Mir Zafar Ullah Khan Jamali had also the honour of studying at Lawrence College, Ghora Gali.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to know from the Principal's report that in pursuance of the glorious traditions and systems of the college, Lawrence College is successfully meeting the challenges of the modern age. In the wake of the latest scenario, wherein the world has been reduced to a global village and new avenues and horizons are opening up in the field of education. In the wake of such a development, only the educational institutions responding to the latest requirements of the pupils can survive honourably in the comity of the prestigious educational institutions of the world.

Distinguished audience

The world we are living in today is confronted with numerous challenges, challenges that have the potential of reorienting our direction and impacting our future depending upon how we respond to them. It is a complex world defined by the forces of change and

evolution. Only those individuals and nations stand the chance of competing in today's hi-tech environment who have done their homework well in advance and made knowledge the pivot of their progress and development. Our dream of national development would remain a pipedream unless our teaching institutions and universities become the hub of research and creativity capable of offering fresh insights and innovative solutions to the contemporary problems. This requires us to depart from our traditional ways of thinking and embrace change to catch up with the needs of time.

All of us are aware of the fact that the developed world has reached its present place by ensuring high literacy rates and productivity of human resource. Gone are the days when population used to be considered as a burden. This notion has been replaced by the acknowledgment of demography as a key ingredient of development provided the state can enhance the capacity and productivity of its people through skill development and sustained investment in education.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are lucky that a large chunk of Pakistan's population comprises the youth aged between 15 and 24 years. They have made their mark in their respective fields and professions at the international level. However, we need infrastructure and extensive programs and above all sustained policy focus on long-term basis to tap this potential. The prospective abilities of our youth can be streamlined into valuable human asset that can be utilized for the economic advancement and development of our country.

I recall a quote of Qaid-e-Azam [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](#): "Pakistan is proud of its youth who are the nation builders of tomorrow. They must fully equip themselves by discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of them."

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I speak to you at this point in time, our great nation is at a decisive phase of our history. The retrogressive forces are adamant to snatch from us our values, our traditions and our identity. It goes without saying that terrorism and extremism constitute the daunting challenge for our state and society. As I keep saying that it is not merely a physical fight. Rather it is a battle of ideas. In order to comprehensively eliminate extremism and terrorism, we need to defeat the idea which generates it in the first place. This is possible only when our intellectuals, religious scholars, academia and students come forward and give their input.

Respected participants

The teaching institutions and universities have huge obligations on their shoulders on this count. They must launch intellectual [Jihad](#) against terrorism and extremism by inculcating the values of respect and harmony among its students. Our schools, colleges and universities must become the hub of generating ideas. Our great religion, Islam, is a religion of peace and love. It enjoins upon its believers to promote integration and establish inclusive society where every citizen of the state irrespective of his colour, caste, race and creed is equal before the eyes of law and has equal access to opportunities. [Peaceful coexistence](#) among people of different faiths has been the hallmark of our society. We must endeavour to promote respect for dissent and diversity and discourage isolationist tendencies. The process of change at societal level can begin only when we employ moderation and tolerance in our attitudes in our personal lives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is about time we built bridges and fostered understanding among peoples of different communities, civilizations, cultures and denominators. The essential message of globalisation is interdependence and it must be our collective endeavour to promote peace and engage with one another to foil all conspiracies against humanity. We owe it to our coming generations to leave a peaceful world for them.

This is where your college's motto "Never Give in" comes into play. Despite heavy odds pitted against us, we must vow not to give in or to give up. We need a generation of leaders and statesmen who are capable of turning weakness into strength, obstacle into achievement and challenge into opportunity. In an environment of despondency, we need optimists who can navigate the ship of the state out of uncharted waters.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me conclude by saying that while the reputed educational institutions are expected to produce future leadership for various fields, it is also essential that these institutions improve upon its academic environment and facilities. The change has to be carefully designed to enable the institutions to retain their characteristics and grow at par with time. This approach of preserving the heritage and incorporating the change strengthens linkages between the institution and its former students.

I would admit that I was impressed by the structure and design of the Clock-Tower while inaugurating it a short while ago. It is a rare gift by the old Gallians to their alma mater on 150th celebrations. I am pleased to know that the boys and staff of the other prestigious institutions of the country are here at this mega function of LCGG. Such interactions are important for fostering understandings among a cross section of the student community. I am also glad to learn that the Principal has constructed a new colony for the college employees with all the facilities. It would further boost their morale to work devotedly.

I announce assistance for the construction of all whether swimming pool at the collage. I also announce issuance of coin to commemorate the 150th anniversary celebration of LCGG and three holidays for the students. Finally I am thankful to the Principal and his staff for inviting me on this grand occasion and providing me with an opportunity to speak to the illustrious gathering.

Thank you

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